

Docket JP920000426US1.

Appl. No.: 09/892,147
Filed: June 26, 2001**REMARKS**

This is a reply to Examiner's Office communication of March 15, 2006.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e)

Claims 1-20 are rejected 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Esposito et al. (6,587,838). Applicant herein cancels the independent claims, i.e., claims 1 and 11, and adds new independent claims 21 and 22 to overcome the rejection. Applicant also herein cancels claims 2-3, 8, 10, 12-13, 18 and 20. Applicant herein amends dependent claims 4-7, 9, 14-17 and 19 to conform them to new independent claims 21 and 22.

No new matter is added, since the original application provides support for the amendments. See, e.g., the following of the present application:

FIG's 1 and 9, page 4, lines 14 - page 6, line 9 (a host computer system 100 at a data center 210 (FIG. 2) hosting a plurality of applications in layers 102, 104 and 106);

page 5, lines 21-22 (applications of host computer system in layers 102, 104 and 106 stored on the hosting system 100);

page 14, lines 12 - 20 (such an application being executed on the host computer system, e.g., server 830 may be at the service provider's location, e.g., data center 210);

page 5, lines 23-28 (a first e-Business application of layer 102 on the hosting system operable as a first shopping process);

page 6, lines 7-8 (the first shopping process being accessible to shoppers¹ by Internet communications);

page 7, item 3, "e-business only" selection (a first hosting step by the first shopping process, including communicating with a first integration process and a first resource planning process via Internet communications to transact first sales, wherein the first resource planning process is a process of a first resource planning application on a host computer system located remotely from the data center and the first integration process is a process of a first integration application on a host computer system located remotely from the data center);

¹ Note that in the new claims the term "shoppers" is used instead of the term "customers," as used in the original application. Further, in an effort to be more clear about the invention, the term "customers" is used in the new claims to refer to the customers of a hosting service, rather than those who shop at a shop (i.e., e-business) hosted on the hosting service.

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FIG's 1 and 9 (a second application stored on the hosting system and operable as a second resource planning process on the host computer system, e.g., process of ERP application of layer 106);

page 6, item 1, "application only" selection (the second resource planning process being operable to perform a second hosting service step including communicating with a production process via Internet or dedicated link communications, wherein the production process is a process of a second production application on a host computer located remotely from the data center);

FIG's 1 and 9 (a third application stored on the hosting system and operable as a second integration process executing on the host computer system, e.g., process of MQ series of applications of layer 104);

page 7, item 5, "application, integration and e-business" selection (a third hosting service step in which the second integration process couples communications between the first shopping process and the second resource planning process to transact second sales);

page 6, item 2, "application and integration" selection (a fourth hosting service step in which the second integration process couples communications between the second resource planning process and a second shopping process, wherein the second shopping process is a process of a second shopping application accessible to shoppers by Internet communications on a host computer located remotely from the data center, the communications between the second resource planning process and the second shopping process being Internet communications to transact third sales);

page 7, item 4, "e-business and integration" selection (a fifth hosting service step in which the second integration process couples communications between the first shopping process and a third resource planning process to transact fourth sales, wherein the third resource planning process is a process of a third resource planning application on a host computer located remotely from the data center);

page 7, item 6, "integration only" selection (a sixth hosting service step in which the second integration process couples communications between a certain process and a third shopping process, wherein the third shopping process is a process of a third shopping application accessible to shoppers by Internet communications on a host computer located remotely from the

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data center and the certain process is a process of a certain application on a host computer located remotely from the data center); and

page 2, line 22 - 30 (the host computer system being operable to offer to customers² a selection of hosting services, such that the customers may select for the host computer system to perform one or more of the hosting service steps).

While Esposito discloses certain interactions among buyers and sellers, some of which involve a host computer, Esposito does not teach or suggest a host computer operable to offer to customers a selection of hosting services wherein the customers may select for the host computer system to perform one or more of six hosting services involving specific combinations of, and interactions among, a plurality of applications hosted on the host computer system as set out in claims 21 and 22. Esposito especially does not teach or suggest an integration process on a host computer system for coupling a shopping process and a resource planning process on the host computer system, as now claimed. Nor does Esposito teach or suggest service offering selections in which processes on remote hosts are integrated with processes hosted on a central host and other service offering selections in which corresponding processes on the central host are both hosted *and* integrated, as now claimed.

² See footnote 1.

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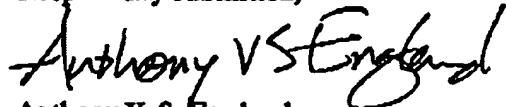
Appl. No.: 09/892,147
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Applicant has reviewed the prior art of record cited by but not relied upon by Examiner, and asserts that the invention is patentably distinct.

REQUESTED ACTIONS

For the reasons explained herein above, Applicant contends that the claims as amended herein are patentably distinct and hereby requests that Examiner grant allowance and prompt passage of the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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